

and the gentleman doesn't need reminding of that, but these were not simply soldiers of a regime that was pursuing a war that you and I might view in a different way.

Mr. CANTOR. Reclaiming my time, I would just say to the gentleman, as he does know, there were applicable provisions at law which govern the treatment of soldiers at war and there is a much less definitive, more nebulous environment in which we are to look towards enemy combatants, which is my point. Because with the trial of enemy combatants on U.S. soil, we are confronting, as the gentleman knows, cases of first impression at every turn, and we are confronting uncertainty as to the disposition of these cases which brings up potential harm for U.S. citizens.

I would just go back to the gentleman's plea that he would like to see us support this bill. If the primary purpose is to maintain, promote the security and safety of our troops and provide them with funding, it is a reach for me to understand how allowing for a release of photos, how allowing for the transfer of enemy combatants—terrorists—to U.S. soil furthers that end.

So I would say in closing, Madam Speaker, if the gentleman is satisfied with deferring to the White House and deferring to this President on the very core purpose of securing this country at all levels and doesn't feel the Congress should take affirmative action, then I believe his support of this bill is well put. But it is certainly the opinion of many of us in this House as indicated by votes as late as yesterday that we can do better, that we can take action to secure our troops, get them the money they need and get rid of the unrelated items in this bill.

Mr. HOYER. I simply want to observe, as I pointed out in the five or six points I made, particularly that current detainees cannot be transferred or released to another country without notice to us, nor can they be released here in the United States without further action. So that the gentleman's premise is, I think, not correct, that this President has the authority to, or the intent to release people at this time in the United States before or after trial.

Having said that, I would say, the gentleman continues to talk about the add-ons, but I will tell the gentleman, as the gentleman knows, over 80 percent of this bill deals with the funding and security of our troops and the prosecution of the effort to defeat terrorism. Over 80 percent of this bill. It is in that context that I would hope the gentleman would see his way clear to urging his colleagues to join with us in passing this needed legislation.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his suggestion and counsel, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning-hour debate, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday June 16, 2009, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KILROY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

COMMENDING SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT KEN MITCHELL

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend South Orangetown Schools Superintendent Ken Mitchell in Rockland County in my district for his quick reaction and his bravery as he singlehandedly prevented what could have been a terrible tragedy in South Orangetown Middle School.

According to reports, a man came into the school, stormed past security and demanded at gunpoint that Mr. Mitchell make changes to a letter on swine flu. He certainly picked the wrong person to threaten when he took on Mr. Mitchell, a former hockey player and coach. The 55-year-old superintendent was able to tackle him and disarm him before police were able to break into the locked office to apprehend the suspect.

Thankfully, no one was hurt.

Why someone would enter a school with a gun is something I will never understand. It's disturbing to even fathom what could lead someone to choose to do that. However, it is heartening to realize that someone like Ken Mitchell is standing in their way.

The dedication shown by Mr. Mitchell to the children should be an example to all. Our Nation has witnessed too many deaths of our children in their schools. The people of the South Orangetown school system and the community as a whole owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Hero is an overused word in today's world, but I can think of fewer situations which more warrant that word than protecting children in their classrooms. Ken Mitchell is truly a hero.

VIETNAM MUST RESPECT THE RULE OF LAW

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, although we live in the 21st century, many people today are still deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law by governments that lack the rule of law. One such government is the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

About 10 years ago, the Vietnamese Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs directly oversaw and operated two state-owned labor companies that were involved in the largest human trafficking case ever prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice. The case thoroughly documented the exploitation and abusive conditions faced by more than 230 workers at the Daewoosa factory in American Samoa. These victims were beaten, starved, sexually harassed and threatened with deportation. The High Court of American Samoa subsequently found these state-owned labor agencies liable for the atrocities and made them pay \$3.5 million to the victims. Almost 10 years after the ruling, Vietnam still refuses to acknowledge its part in these atrocities and pay.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the U.S. Congress demand that the Vietnamese government pay the damages and respect the rule of law.

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CONTINUING BONUSES FOR BANKERS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, since January, the American people have endured another loss of \$1.33 trillion of their wealth, having already faced the worst drop in wealth since 1951 in the prior quarter. Yet despite being at the root of our economy's tailspin, Wall Street continues to issue huge bonuses. For example, Merrill Lynch has issued \$4 billion in bonuses to the very bankers and financiers who created this mess that are now nested over at the Bank of America. This is yet another sign that America needs to rein in the false money wizards and reward those who create real wealth in our society, starting with hardworking Americans.

So let me ask the question, when will Wall Street's profits translate into a better life for everyone else? With wealth declining and unemployment rising, America should not be hollowed out by Wall Street. Rather, Wall Street's business should translate into a better way of life for the American Republic. We have wandered far from that mark.

AMERICANS' NET WORTH SHRINKS \$1.33 TRILLION IN 1Q

(By Jeannine Aversa)

WASHINGTON.—American households lost \$1.33 trillion of their wealth in the first three months of the year as the recession took a bite out of stock portfolios and dragged down home prices.

The Federal Reserve reported Thursday that household net worth fell to \$50.38 trillion in the January-March quarter, the lowest level since the third quarter of 2004. The

first-quarter figure marked a decline of 2.6 percent, or \$1.33 trillion, from the final quarter of 2008.

Net worth represents total assets such as homes and checking accounts, minus liabilities like mortgages and credit card debt.

The damage to wealth in the first quarter came from the sinking stock market. The value of Americans' stock holdings dropped 5.8 percent from the final quarter of last year.

The stock market began to rally from 12-year lows in early March after Citigroup Inc. reported it was profitable in the first two months of the year. Since peaking in October 2007, it had been the worst bear market since the aftermath of the crash of 1929.

Another hit came from falling house prices. The value of household real-estate holdings fell 2.4 percent, according to the Fed report.

Collectively, homeowners had only 41.4 percent equity in their homes in the first quarter. That was down from 42.9 percent in the fourth quarter and was the lowest on records dating to 1945.

The Case-Shiller national home price index, a closely watched barometer, last month estimated that house prices dropped 7.5 percent during the first quarter. Prices have fallen 32.2 percent since peaking in the second quarter of 2006.

The latest snapshot of Americans' balance sheets was contained in the Fed's quarterly report called the flow of funds.

Despite the drop, the speed at which net worth shrunk slowed at the start of the year. During the recession's deepest point in the October-December period, Americans' net worth fell a record 8.6 percent, according to revised figures. That was the largest drop on records dating to 1951.

With wealth declining and unemployment rising, there are questions about how consumers—the lifeblood of the economy—will behave in the coming months.

If they continue to spend, even at a subdued pace, the recession likely will end this year as predicted by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and other economists. However, if consumers hunker down and cut spending again, that could delay any recovery. In the final quarter of last year, Americans slashed spending at an annualized rate of 4.3 percent, the most in 28 years.

Still, there was some encouraging news on consumer spending Thursday.

Retail sales rose 0.5 percent in May, following two straight monthly declines, the Commerce Department reported. Meanwhile, the number of newly laid-off workers filing for unemployment benefits fell last week by 24,000 to 601,000, the lowest level since late January.

DON'T GIVE TERRORISTS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney present during questioning. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you."

American citizens are read these rights when they are taken into police custody. But the Obama administration has decided to give these rights to suspected terrorists overseas.

Why would the Obama administration give terrorists the same rights as American citizens? Members of al Qaeda and the other terrorist groups should be treated as what they are, America's enemies engaged in a war against the United States.

Giving terrorists constitutional rights is like giving a burglar the key to your house.

CONCERNS WITH A GOVERNMENT- RUN HEALTH CARE PLAN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Republicans are committed to health care reform, and we have and will continue to offer positive solutions to achieve accessible, affordable health care for all Americans. Unfortunately, as Democrats sat behind closed doors to develop their plan, it appears they have failed to answer some troubling concerns about what seems quite likely to be an unwarranted government takeover of the health care system.

So in the spirit of honest debate, I ask my Democrat colleagues how they expect to pay for a government insurance plan without raising taxes or driving up the national debt. How will a government-run health plan not lead to the same rationing of care that we have seen in other countries? How will a government-run health plan protect the doctor-patient relationship, when Washington will now be empowered to pick and choose what procedures and treatments are, in their opinion, cost beneficial?

Before we turn congressional offices into waiting rooms, I hope my Democrat colleagues will answer these questions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th and the Global War on Terrorism.

NO NEW TAXES, NO NEW SPENDING, NO NEW DEBT

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I just finished speaking to the Bunker Hill and Wilchester Elementary School students, and I want to bring to the attention of the people here in the audience and out there the cover of the new Economist magazine which expresses beautifully the terrible, terrible burden that this Congress, this liberal majority, is passing on to our kids.

Now, there was debt run up under the previous administration. I as a member of the fiscally conservative minority voted against \$2.3 trillion worth of new spending under the previous administration. I already voted against \$1.6 trillion in this administration. And no matter who you are, fiscal conservative

or liberal, each one of us needs to remember as parents, as husbands, as responsible citizens, that we cannot pass on a burden of debt to our kids.

On every vote on every issue, we need to remember that our children are inheriting the biggest debt and the biggest deficit in our Nation's history. As bad as the deficit was under Mr. Bush, the Economist points out it will quadruple this year and stay over \$1 trillion a year out into the future.

Madam Speaker, on every vote on every issue, this Congress needs to cut spending. No new taxes, no new spending, and no new debt.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE WAR FOR THE BORDER CONTINUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the out-of-control violence along our border is made up of more complex elements than most people realize. The criminal cartels controlling our southern border are a lot more powerful than we are led to believe. They are international organized crime cartels that make money off the weaknesses of others. They traffic drugs, money, weapons and human beings across our southern border. They leave death, doom, and destruction in their wake.

Make no mistake about it, there is corruption on both sides of the border that facilitates the lawlessness that is taking place there. Just last month the former sheriff of Starr County, Texas, Rey Guerra, pled guilty to Federal narcotics charges. He admitted to facilitating intelligence that helped Mexican drug traffickers invade the United States and evade counternarcotics efforts. That included trying to find out the identity of confidential informants.

Madam Speaker, he needs to be locked up forever for his betrayal of this country and law enforcement. But he is just one of a growing number of recruits from both sides of the border that are facilitating this avalanche of corruption and anarchy along the southern frontier.

The Mexican criminal cartels have added a layer of intelligence that better resembles foreign recruitment of spies during the Cold War than a traditional criminal enterprise. The huge